

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, NATO, CNAD

SUBJECT:FORMATION OF A GROUP OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF
MATERIEL STANDARDIZATION (GNDMS)

REF: A. USNATO 6058, DTG 052042 NOV 76 (NOTAL)
A. AC/259-D/512, 30 JUN 76

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1. REF A REFLECTED THE CNAD DECISION TO REFER TO NADREPS
FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHAPTER X,
REF B, WHICH SET FORTH PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
A GROUP OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF MATERIEL STANDARDIZATION
(GNDMS). THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON THE US POSI-
TION REGARDING FORMATION OF A GNDMS.

2. THE US STRONGLY SUPPORTS FORMATION OF A GNDMS UNDER THE CNAD AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPING FUTURE SHORT-RANGE AND LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENTS (STANAGS) IN THE ENGINEERING DESIGN AND STANDARDS REALM OF THE ASSEMBLIES, COMPONENTS, SPARE PARTS AND MATERIAL (ACSM) AREAS. THE GNDMS WOULD, LIKE ITS CNAD PARENT BODY, BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH FUTURE STANDARDIZATION OF ACSM, WHILE THE MAS WOULD CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF CORRECTIVE STANDARDIZATION OF EXISTING ACSM. CERTAIN STANDARDIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT ACSM MIGHT BE REFERRED BY THE MAS OR CNAD TO THE GNDMS FOR ATTENTION, WHERE THE GNDMS WAS BETTER SUITED TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM THAN A GROUP UNDER THE MAS.

3. THE GNDMS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE TASK OF ORGANIZING THE AREA OF ENGINEERING DESIGN DOCUMENTATION GUIDING AND ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATO STANAGS PERTAINING TO ACSM, AND RECOMMENDING STEPS TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION. THE WORK OF THE GNDMS SHOULD INTERFACE CLOSELY WITH NATO CODIFICATION ACTIVITIES WITH A VIEW OF REDUCING THE VARIED OF ITEMS NATO NATIONS MUST NOW SUPPORT. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE GNDMS SHOULD BE TO HELP IMPROVE NATO'S LOGISTICS SUPPORT CAPABILITY, ENHANCE INTEROPERABILITY AND CROSS-SERVICING AMONG FORCES, REDUCE COSTS AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE NATO STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM FOR FUTURE ASSEMBLIES, COMPONENTS, SPARE PARTS AND MATERIALS.

4. INITIAL PROBLEM AREAS AS WE SEE THEM IN ACHIEVING A
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POSITIVE NADREPS RECOMMENDATION TO CNAD ARE DISCUSSED
BELOW:

A. CONVINCING THOSE NATIONS OPPOSED TO A GNDMS OF ITS
VALUE AND NEED:

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BELGIAN AND NORWEGIAN NADREPS HAVE GIVEN SOME INDICATION THAT THEIR NATIONS DO NOT BELIEVE A GNDMS IS NEEDED. THE CNAD REQUESTED THE MAS TO STUDY NATO REQUIREMENTS FOR ACSM STANDARDIZATION. THE STUDY GROUP INCLUDED BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE MAS AND A DEFENSE SUPPORT DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE, AND UTILIZED EXTENSIVE NATIONAL INPUT OF SURVEY INFORMATION. THE STUDY DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS A CLEAR-CUT NEED FOR NATO TO DO MORE IN THE AREA OF STANDARDIZATION OF ACSM AND THAT A GNDMS WAS NEEDED TO TACKLE THE BUILDING BLOCK STANAGS NEEDED TO INCREASE NATO STANDARDIZATION OF FUTURE ACSM. IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THESE NATIONS OF THE NEED, WE NEED A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THEY ARE OPPOSED AND SUGGEST THAT THE NADREPS MAY WANT TO EXPLORE THIS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. DURING THE FORMATIVE STAGES

LEADING UP TO THE US PROPOSAL THAT RESULTED IN THE ACSM STUDY WE HAD VERY ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STANDARDIZATION IN THE UK MOD. IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY DOING SO, MISSION MAY FIND IT HELPFUL TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE UK IN DEVELOPING A CASE FOR CONVINCING DOUBTING NATIONS.

B. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GERMANY, AND POSSIBLY OTHER NATIONS, ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE GNDMS SHOULD BE UNDER THE CNAD.

IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE STUDY SET FORTH IN REF B, MAKES A CLEAR-CUT CASE FOR AN APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF ACSM WORK BETWEEN THE MAS AND THE CNAD, IN WHICH THE MAS WOULD

DEAL WITH ACSM STANDARDIZATION PERTAINING TO EXISTING MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHILE THE GNDMS UNDER CNAD WOULD DEAL WITH NATO STANDARDIZATION OF SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS PERTAINING TO THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING OF FUTURE
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EQUIPMENT. WORK SUCH AS THAT ENVISIONED FOR THE GNDMS DOES NOT FIT WELL UNDER THE MAS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. THE MAS IS A MILITARY AGENCY DEALING WITH MILITARY STANDARDIZATION MATTERS AND OPERATES PRIMARILY WITHIN MILITARY CHANNELS. NATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS PERTAINING TO ACSM ARE NOT NECESSARILY CONFINED TO THE MILITARY SPHERE AND IN SOME INSTANCES INVOLVE THE WORK OF GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS OTHER THAN THE MOD. IN ADDITION, THIS WORK IS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARMAMENTS AND R AND D RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CNAD, PERTAINING TO FUTURE EQUIPMENT THAN WITH THE MAS WORK ON INTEROPERABILITY OF PRESENT EQUIPMENT. FURTHER, THE MAS STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF WORK IS NOT WELL SUITED TO THE ADDITION OF A GNDMS. FYI. WE WOULD RATHER HAVE A GNDMS UNDER MAS THAN NONE AT ALL, BUT WE HOPE THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, SINCE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE MISPLACED AND THUS LESS EFFECTIVE. END FYI.

C. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND NORWEGIAN NADREPS HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT FURTHER ACTION ON A GNDMS SHOULD AWAIT THE WORK IN HAND TO FURTHER DEFINE THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE MAS AND CNAD. WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF A BODY TO HANDLE WORK ON NATO STANAGS PERTAINING TO ENGINEERING STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE ACSM IS A CLEAR-CUT ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTION AND CAN BE RESOLVED CORRECTLY WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE EVENTUAL OVERALL DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE MAS AND CNAD NOW BEING STUDIED. WE BELIEVE THIS IS CLEAR FROM THE

REPORT IN REF B. SOME NATIONS MAY ONLY BE USING THIS AS A DELAYING TACTIC, BECAUSE THEY OPPOSE THE GNDMS. PERHAPS THE POSITIONS OF NATIONS ON THIS WILL BE CLEARER AFTER THE NEXT NADREPS MEETING.

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5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OUTLINE TERMS OF REFERENCE SET FORTH IN ANNEX 1 TO REF B ARE ADEQUATE FOR THE PRESENT AND HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE AT THIS TIME.

6. OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO GET A POSITIVE NADREPS PROPOSAL TO THE APRIL 1977 MEETING OF CNAD IF POSSIBLE. TO DO THIS, YOU MAY WANT TO SUGGEST AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THAT NADREPS ESTABLISH AN OPEN-ENDED SUBGROUP

TO DRAW UP A PROPOSAL. IF IT APPEARS THAT IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE, THE US MIGHT THEN WISH TO TABLE AN INITIAL DRAFTAC/259 DOCUMENT FOR THIS GROUP TO CONSIDER. THE WORK OF THIS GROUP MIGHT BE GREATLY ASSISTED BY BRINGING ON BOARD SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MAS STUDY GROUP.

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